

**From:** leon@mcall.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 3:28pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

The settlement leaves out any remedies that address Microsoft's ability to impose a tax on every personal computer sold. When I purchased my first PC year's ago I could not find one PC distributor that would sell a machine without Microsoft's operating system preinstalled. Even though I had no intention of running Microsoft's software, I had to pay the tax. The situation has changed very little, in today's market place the vast majority of distributors of PC's require you to pay the Microsoft tax.

Software should be a separate purchase leaving the consumer the ability of running other operating systems if they choose. And preventing Microsoft from requiring personnel computer manufacturers and distributors to license their software for every machine sold, through the use of volume discounts and other methods.

The fact that the settlement does little to force Microsoft from revealing the API's ( Application Programming Interfaces ) and document formats insures that the behavior the settlement is supposed to correct will continue on into the future. Microsoft only has to claim that by doing so threatens their intellectual property or that it comprises the security of their software and this information will not be available. Some mechanism or process to insure that they do not hide behind this clause to simple disadvantage the competition.

Also the panel that will supervise this settlement is strongly influenced by Microsoft, in their ability to choose who sits on it. Isn't this too much like the fox supervising the hen house?

I am a system administrator for the Tribune Corp, administering both Windows and Unix systems. My opinions are my own and in no way reflect those of my employer....

George Leon  
System Administrator  
Tribune CoOpportunity  
610-508-1509  
leon@mcall.com